



FH  
[REDACTED]

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Division of Hearings and Appeals**

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In the Matter of

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/166981

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**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed June 29, 2015, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on July 21, 2015, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the petitioner is entitled to a heating allowance deduction if he does not does not pay for his own utilities or receive energy assistance benefits.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I

Respondent:

Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
By: Katherine May  
Milwaukee Enrollment Services  
1220 W Vliet St, Room 106  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

Peter McCombs  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County.
2. The county agency reduced the petitioner's FoodShare allotment from \$125 to \$16 per month as of August 1, 2015.

3. The petitioner receives \$836.78 per month in state and federal SSI. He does not receive any other income.
4. The petitioner pays \$300 a month for rent. His utilities are included in his rent.

### **DISCUSSION**

The size of a FoodShare allotment depends upon household size and net income. Net income is determined after subtracting from gross income those deductions—and only those deductions—found in 7 CFR § 273.9(d). The county agency reduced the petitioner's FoodShare allotment from \$125 to \$16 per month because recipients no longer receive a utility allowance if their utilities are included in their rent, unless the person receives energy assistance. *The Agriculture Act of 2014*, Title IV, § 4006; 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(ii); 7 CFR § 273.9(d)(3), *referring to* 7 CFR § 271.2. Those who pay their own heat get a \$446.00 standard utility allowance as part of their shelter deduction. *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook*. § 4.6.7; 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(ii); *FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook*, § 8.1.3.

Wisconsin had been granting the utility allowance to those whose utilities were included in their rent by granting them a \$1 annual energy assistance payment, but the current farm bill requires households whose heating costs are included in their rent to receive at least \$20 a year in heating assistance to qualify for utility allowance. Most states that had provided \$1 a month in energy assistance raised this amount \$20, but Wisconsin did not. I have reviewed the agency's calculations and find no errors.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The petitioner is not entitled to the Heat Utility Standard Allowance because his heat and electricity are included in his rent.
2. The county agency correctly determined the petitioner's FoodShare allotment.

**THEREFORE, it is**

**ORDERED**

The petitioner's appeal is dismissed.

### **REQUEST FOR A REHEARING**

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

**APPEAL TO COURT**

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as “PARTIES IN INTEREST” **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,  
Wisconsin, this 28th day of July, 2015

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\sPeter McCombs  
Administrative Law Judge  
Division of Hearings and Appeals



**State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on July 28, 2015.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability